



AlvegoRoot Theatre
2023 SEASON 15TH ANNIVERSARY



Fridge Door Live Theatre Company's

Lawrence Station

by Len Cuthbert

A Note from Adam



This year we are celebrating our 15th Anniversary Season! We are forever grateful for the brilliant support of and engagement with the theatre we create for you, our community. Our audience is big hearted and always ready for adventures into new theatrical realms. With this in mind we are creating a season unlike any we have ever done before, with new stories brought to the stage with originality and verve. What remains constant as always, is that we are telling local stories, supporting local artists and creating wholly unique local theatre. You are a big part of the work we do and you are a big part of the celebration. - *Adam C-H, Artistic Director*

AlvegoRoot creates work on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples as well as nations both recorded and unrecorded who have been caretakers of this land for time immemorial. These lands are connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.



Cover: Sarah Hagarty as Gertrude Blackley and Eve Cohen as Viola Howe in Lawrence Station.
Photo by Tony Paul.

Fridge Door Live Theatre Company's
Lawrence Station
by Len Cuthbert

Cast

Eve Cohen

Annie Fox, Viola Howe, Barbara Trost, Betty, Bessie Gilchrist
Kristen Sikorski among other characters.

Sarah Hagarty

Harriott Moore, Mabel George, Mildred, Gertrude Blackley, Radio
Range Station Operator, Frances Ludwick, Doris Imlay, Milliken
among other characters.

Kydra Ryan

Ann Danyo, Snyder, Mary Blackley, Edna Carswell, Rose Watt, Beth
Saleet among other characters.

Artistic Credits

Adam Corrigan Holowitz - Director

Adam Corrigan Holowitz - Designer

Len Cuthbert - Lighting Designer

Adam Corrigan Holowitz - Sound Designer

Setting:

The play begins on October 30 1941

and primarily takes place in the following locations:

Canada: Lawrence Station, Ontario

USA: Buffalo New York and New York City

Detroit, Michigan

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

**Running Time: 1 Hour and 50 Minutes
with no intermission**

Director's Notes

It is rare (or at least not entirely common) for plays to be about horrible events that are not caused by human intent. It is perhaps easier to examine and find reasons behind cruelty of human beings. What is harder to comprehend are events that are truly accidents which are the fault of no one. The cruelty of fate is an ancient concept and one we rather avoid thinking about if we can help it. The crash of American Airlines Flight One on October 30th 1941 is one such event. The cause of the crash remains a mystery, perhaps ice forming on the wings... but answers will forever be elusive. There is no meaning to be found in a freak accident, but there is meaning to be found in how people respond to it. The community around Lawrence Station responded to the horrific crash that occurred in their neighbourhood with great valour, generosity and humanity. This spirit carries on to this day as the community's remains dedicated to ensuring the victims of the crash are remembered and memorialized with dignity and respect.

Len Cuthbert has with great care created a play that looks at all the people changed by the events of that night. He has given space for the victims to be seen and remembered as they were in life. He has conveyed the acts of courage and humanity that took place on the ground. It is an honour to direct this play which is a living memorial to the good people who were lost that night and the good people who carried on. Such is to live and to love.

With my deep appreciation,

Adam Corrigan Holowitz

Playwright's Notes

Lawrence Station: The Making of a New Play

How did we get here? It was hardly my doing. I am convinced that the stars must have aligned for so many unexpected events leading to this production to occur.

It all began on a hot August day in 2020, when I headed out, peddling my bike up Melbourne Road for my daily ride for kids' cancer. My hope was to divert through the Muncee Reserve, to make the trip a quick ride for the day. The stars didn't seem to agree. Because of COVID restrictions, I wasn't allowed to ride through Muncee, and so I now had to make a decision to go right on Melbourne Road and head back home or go left and wander aimlessly in a less than familiar direction. The stars said left. Who was I to argue? That decision resulted in a 65 km ride that took me through the tiny hamlet of Lawrence Station.

When I finally made it home, I wrote my daily blog about my ride. Of all the little towns I rode through that I could have Google searched, I, for some reason, chose Lawrence Station. That's when the story of this major 1941 aviation event came to life.

Combining my pilot and aircraft maintenance background with playwriting, I was now on a journey to explore the idea of writing a play about this local historical event I knew nothing about. I anticipated this to be a journey that I would have to venture on my own. My first connection was with Ken Howe, who was five years old when the crash occurred. I contacted him the old fashioned way by letter sent by snail mail. Little did I know, that I had just cracked open the door of the wardrobe that would lead me through to an awesome world on the other side known as the community of Southwold. This new world would become the catalyst of propelling this project forward. During my ventures, I would meet amazing people and make new friends. The original connection with Ken Howe led to meeting with Southwold volunteers Ross Burgar and Len Lynch that led to the support of Council members Sarah Emons and Justin Pennings and many others.

Through the expedition of researching and writing, I have come to discover that the kind and caring community of Lawrence Station and surrounding neighbours, who ran to the rescue of the Flagship Erie 82 years ago, still remains alive and well in the township of Southwold.

The stars further aligned by providing me the privilege of having this script brought to life by an outstanding director and dramaturg, Adam Corrigan Holowitz, and the remarkably talented actors, Eve Cohen, Sarah Hagarty and Kydra Ryan. They are their own galaxy of stars!

Writing a play about the event of October 30, 1941 and the people and their families that were forever changed, has changed me. I hope that the creative theatrical presentation that is directed and performed by an extraordinary team of artists will provide you with a renewed and encouraging perspective of life. May you be influenced, informed and inspired! Thank you for participating as an audience member. I am grateful for your investment.

Len Cuthbert



**Sarah Hagarty as Gertrude and Eve Cohen as Viola Howe in Lawrence Station.
Sarah Hagarty as Mable George, Kydra Ryan as Snyder and Eve Cohen as Barbara in Lawrence Station.
Photos by Tony Paul.**





Eve Cohen as Barbara.



Kydra Ryan as Snyder and Sarah Hagarty as Mabel.



Kydra Ryan as Edna Carswell in Lawrence Station. Photos by Tony Paul.

Ensemble



Eve Cohen

2023 Season: Viola in Lawrence Station. 1st Season for AlvegoRoot.

This is Eve's debut with AlvegoRoot Theatre company, and she is delighted to be part of the premiere cast for Lawrence Station. A newcomer to Canada, Eve studied theatre at the Beverly Hills Playhouse in Los Angeles. Recent plays include The Dining Room (Theatre Woodstock), Four Weddings and an Elvis (ITOPA), and Human Voices Wake Us (TAP Centre for Creativity). Favourite roles in the US include Gwendolyn Pigeon in The Odd Couple (Parker Arts, Denver), Pam in The Full Monty (Sasquatch Productions, Denver), and Nancy in The Goodbye People (Vintage Theatre, Denver).



Adam Corrigan Holowitz, Founding Artistic Director, 15th Season

2023 Season: him in february, Director of The Fig Tree, Director of Lawrence Station, Playwright/Director/The Lawyer in The Lawyer of La Salette.

Adam works as a dramaturg, director and playwright. Works Adam has directed for AlvegoRoot include: Gyroscope, Slate Sisters (playwright), The Bicycle Play, Pirates of Long Point (playwright), Fools and Lovers, The Wind in the Willows (playwright), The Boy with an R in His Hand (playwright), Welcome to Bon Echo, Sixty-Seven (playwright), Dominion Day, The Cheese Poet (playwright), The Big Lad, The Angel of Long Point (playwright), Running Rude, Press Cuttings, Colleening (creator), Endgame, Beard, Macbeth, Uncle Vanya and Waiting for Godot. He performed in Tales for a Reaney Day. For Village Opera Adam has directed: John Beckwith and James Reaney's The Great Lakes Suite, Menotti's The Telephone and Shaw's Village Wooing. For Theatre Aezir he directed Gary Kirkham's Falling: A Wake. He was the dramaturg for David Yee's play rochdale (York University/Summerworks). Adam holds a BA Honours from York University where he studied Dramaturgy. He is the recipient of The Iris Turcott Memorial Award for dramaturgy from York University.

Ensemble



Len Cuthbert

2023 Season: Playwright of Lawrence Station. 1st Season for AlvegoRoot. Len is the founding director of Fridge Door Live Theatre Company. His plays have been produced in Canada, US and Europe. During the pandemic, he created Garage Theatre Canada in his garage and hired actors to stage nine of his short plays for stream-on-demand. Those recordings also appeared in the 2021 and 2022 FringeNorth digital festival. His most recent script, 107, was produced at the 2021 London Fringe Festival, 2022 Toronto Fringe Festival and 2022 Newmarket International One Act Festival. His collection of short plays about reunions, Reunited Shorts, was published by Dramatic Publishing in 2020. LenCuthbert.com Len Cuthbert's scripts are taut and clever. (London Free Press)



Sarah Hagarty

2023 Season: Mabel in Lawrence Station. 1st Season for AlvegoRoot.

Sarah is thrilled to be making her debut with AlvegoRoot Theatre in the premiere production of Lawrence Station. A graduate of the University of Windsor's BFA Acting program, Sarah focuses her artistic practice on the intersection of classical theatre with the contemporary Canadian theatre landscape. Previous work includes Taylor in It Happened During the Quarantine (Third Wheel Theatre), Mrs. Cassilis in The Cassilis Engagement (University Players), and Desdemona in Othello (University Players).



Kydra Ryan, Associate Producer, 7th Season

2023 Season: her in february, Mary in Lawrence Station, Playwright/The Miller in The Lawyer of La Salette, Dramaturg for The Fig Tree.

Past AlvegoRoot credits include: Hilda in Gyroscope, Sylvia in Slate Sisters, Marie/Playwright in Sweet Marie, Playwright/Director of Of Gods and Machines, Performer/Director of Tales for a Reaney Day, Josephine in Pirates of Long Point, Performer/Creator of The Bicycle Play, Ratty in The Wind in the Willows, Annie Pixley in Shall Not Be Taken, The Boy with an R in His Hand, Welcome to Bon Echo, and Elsie: Dreams and Sketches. Kydra was Assistant Director for Six Characters in Search of an Author and Timon of Athens both at Fanshawe College.



Fridge Door Live Theatre began in 2006, offering Summer Theatre Camps to children and youth in London. Since then, FDLTC has become a mobile company, creating theatre programs and camps in London, Strathroy, Ingersoll and St. Thomas, Ontario, investing into many youth and their families each year. In 2011, Fridge Door Live Theatre Company officially became incorporated as a non-profit organization.

In 2015, Fridge Door Live Theatre Company began On Stage Live, an annual production using experienced local actors. Most of these productions are original plays and musicals by Len Cuthbert.

In 2020, Garage Theatre Canada was created in response to COVID-19. Short plays were staged and recorded in a garage and made available for streaming-on-demand at www.GarageTheatre.ca.

PROGRAMS

Build Confidence, Develop Competence, and Encourage Collaboration, in a personal and caring atmosphere, through a performing arts experience.

PRODUCTIONS

Influence, Inform and Inspire, cast, crew and audiences, through the process and production of a live production.

Our Deepest Thanks to Our Donors

- Susan Agranove
- Carolyn and Allister Cameron
- Pamela Cameron
- Teresa Corrigan and Stephen Holowitz
- Elizabeth Durand
- Claudia Day
- Dan Ebbs
- Sheila Johnson
- Brian Keith
- EJ Lamb
- Joyce and Tom Orchard
- Brownyn Powell
- Susan Wallace and James Reaney
- Susan Reaney
- Ailene Wittstein
- Richard Allan Yake

Special thanks to Elizabeth Durand, Teresa Corrigan, Stephen Holowitz and Sue Parke.

Kydra Ryan in *Lawrence Station*.

Photo by Tony Paul.



Telling Local Stories, Creating Local Theatre

AlvegoRoot Theatre is based in London Ontario. AlvegoRoot produces plays about London and the surrounding area. AlvegoRoot develops new plays based on local stories and people. With one eye to the world and another on Southwestern Ontario, AlvegoRoot has created a specific style of theatre that carries on the Souwesto theatre and arts tradition. 2023 marks AlvegoRoot Theatre's 15th Anniversary Season.

Artistic Director - Adam Corrigan Holowitz

Associate Producer - Kydra Ryan

Denise Pelley in Put Your Records On

May 7 at 2:00 PM



with Adam Corrigan Holowitz
and Stephen Holowitz

The Manor Park Memorial Hall
11 Briscoe Street West
Tickets: \$25

TRIVIA NIGHT

LUCKY #13 EDITION!

with quizmaster extraordinaire
David Bogaert

Saturday May 13

7 PM - 10 PM

**THE MANOR PARK MEMORIAL HALL
11 BRISCOE STREET WEST**

Join us for a night of fantastic trivia with London theatre's favourite quiz master David Bogaert. Enjoy a quiz crafted with all the love and care you have come to expect from Mr. Bogaert.

There will be prizes, a cash bar, free snacks and friends!

*This is a fundraiser in support of buying theatre infrastructure for
The Manor Park Memorial Hall.*



**Venue: The Manor Park Memoria Hall
11 Briscoe Street West**

Admission: Minimum Donation of \$10


AlvegoRoot Theatre
2023 SEASON 15TH ANNIVERSARY

SWEETS WITH STYLE

AN EVENING OF DELIGHTS

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*JOIN US FOR DELICIOUS DESSERTS,
MAGNIFICENT MUSIC,
AND FABULOUS FASHION*

*SATURDAY JUNE 10th
7 PM - 10 PM*



Join friends old and new for a fantastic evening of music by a group of artists led by Stephen Holowitz, a unique and delicious selection of desserts and displays of rare vintage clothing.

The evening includes fine food and a complimentary bar with your donation.

This is a fundraiser, at a private home in Westmount, in support of AlvegoRoot Theatre's production of The Lawyer of La Salette. The production is presented by Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

To RSVP please contact Adam Corrigan Holowitz

519-615-2210

adamcorriganholowitz@gmail.com



2023 SEASON: FEBRUARY THE FIG TREE THE MANOR PARK EVENING POST
LAWRENCE STATION PUT YOUR RECORDS ON THE LAWYER OF LA SALETTE